

GENERAL NOTES.

NOTES FROM PHILADELPHIA.—Mr. Davie, in his "Nests and Eggs" says concerning the Robin, that the eggs are "usually four, rarely five." This spring there were under my observation, near home, ten nests of the Robin. Of these, two never contained eggs; of the other eight, two contained when the set was completed, two eggs; three had three eggs; three four eggs and one, five. Therefore it would seem to me that it should be said that the number of eggs in a complete set is from two to five. The nests were all, except the one of five eggs, undisturbed and the broods reared. I am also positive that the nests were not disturbed in any way and it is too early for second sets.

I should like to withdraw a statement that I made in the last number of the BULLETIN about the curious Sparrow's nest. Since then I have found that all the newly built nests have the hole in the side and not the top. There are some thirty or forty nests about the home and are all, without exception, built in this manner.

While on a collecting trip to the Delaware River marshes, on Feb. 26, I shot a Fish Crow, *C. ossifragus*, which had a white feather in the greater coverts of each wing.

On May 29, a Wilson's Phalarope was presented to the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club. It was shot on the marshes back of Ocean City. This is the only specimen of this bird that has ever been shot by any member of the club.

APPROPRIATION OF THE YELLOW-BILLED MAGPIE'S NEST BY THE DESERT SPARROW HAWK.—In San Benito County, California, the Desert Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius deserticolus*, has adopted a mode of nesting which differs somewhat from the traditional habit of taking up an abode in the cavity of some tree. Here a majority of these little Falcons appropriate old nests of the Yellow-billed Magpie, and it is quite probable that they take forcible possession of some of the nests after they have been repaired by the Magpies, as many of the nests I have seen are lined with roots and mud, which was undoubtedly the work of the latter birds. On April 10, on visiting a live oak tree on a little hillside, I saw a new Magpie's nest, from which the bird flew in its quiet, undulating fashion, when I was half way up the tree. The nest was round in shape and one and one-half feet in diameter, with an entrance half way up. The interior of the nest was six inches across and deeply cupped, being about five inches deep, and lined neatly with roots. The nest held five